Iowa Department of
Administrative Services

Information Technology Enterprise

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More Frequently-Asked Questions

Here is a recap of questions regarding the Enterprise Infrastructure and Personnel Assessment as answered by DAS Director Mollie Anderson and ITE Chief Operating Officer John Gillispie at the CIO Council Meeting on August 28, 2003.

1. **How did the consolidation study grow in scope from a study on merging the three data centers and all information technology (IT) staff to including all IT software and hardware?** The DAS sought clarification on study parameters from legislators who drafted the DAS bill. Legislators directed that the study include all hardware, software, personnel and other IT information from all three branches of state government in order to provide the most complete picture.

2. **What study results are expected?** It is impossible to determine the expectations or likely responses of the General Assembly. Within the DAS, Mollie Anderson and John Gillispie feel strongly that the research data should be as fair and accurate as possible so that the consultant has an accurate frame of reference to use during the assessment phase.

3. **Will the EIP Assessment use past data collected for other inventories?** Yes, past data collected and composite data for information categories will be used wherever possible.

4. **What is being done to assure that the consultant is truly independent?** DAS and ITE oversee the recruitment process to assure that the consultant selected has the expertise and independence to provide the required insight and objectivity.

5. **It is important that those affected by the study, including the independent voices of all the CIO Council members and state agencies, be heard in the assessment. How will the process address this need**? The Request for Proposals (RFP) document used to select the study consultant will incorporate input from the CIO Council, and the Council will also assist in the scoring process. In addition, a steering committee comprised of key customers, administrators, IT personnel and union representatives is being formed to help with the assessment. Involvement of non-IT personnel is valuable because it will provide insight into customer expectations.

6. **What is being done to assure that the consolidation study reflects what we need and not what we currently have?** The assessment will capture both what we have and what we need, because both types of information are critical to a fair and accurate research phase and an informed assessment. We will try not to collect more information than is needed. The CIO Council work group will assist in determining what data will be most useful.

7. **Will the ITE Customer Council have any role in the assessment?** No. The CIO Council and the study steering committee that will shortly be convened will guide the assessment.